

# **Naming of Middle School #6 Naming of Elementary School #19**

January 22, 2008

## **SUMMARY:**

This item requests approval of the name for Middle School # 6 to be the Tom Harpool Middle School and the name for Elementary School # 19 to be the Dr. Annie Webb Blanton Elementary School.

## **PREVIOUS BOARD ACTION:**

NA

## **BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

For Middle School #6 the recommended name is the Tom Harpool Middle School. Mr. Harpool is a long time Denton resident who spent the larger part of two decades serving the school children of Denton as a member of the Board of Trustees. He served as a school trustee in 1954 and then from 1961 to 1974. During this time, he served as President of the Board for four years and Vice President for one year. He also was active in the community having served as Chairman of the Denton Chamber of Commerce and as a volunteer for the United Way and Boy Scouts of America. As noted in the accompanying materials, Mr. Harpool is a very well respected local citizen who has been a great advocate for the Denton community.

For Elementary School # 19 the recommended name is the Dr. Annie Webb Blanton Elementary School. Dr. Blanton certainly has ties to the Denton area in that she taught at the University of North Texas when it was known as North Texas Normal College. She truly impacted the history of Texas as the first female to serve as the State of Texas Superintendent of Schools. Actually, she was the first woman elected to any statewide office. As noted in the accompanying materials, Dr. Blanton was extremely instrumental in many educational activities. Her influence has and continues to be prominent in our education setting today. Dr. Blanton was born in Houston, Texas on August 19, 1870. After graduating from high school, she taught in Fayette County, Texas until she moved to Austin to work and attend the university. In Austin she taught both elementary and secondary schools after which she served 17 years on the English faculty at North Texas Normal College (UNT). Additionally, she was the founder of Delta Kappa Gamma, a professional education society for women that has today become a prominent local, state, national and international organization.

## **SIGNIFICANT ISSUES:**

Formalizing the names will provide official identity to the schools. These names will be used in all communication and identifying aspects associated with the schools.

## **FISCAL IMPLICATIONS:**

Funds to denote the names on the buildings are included in the construction funds.

## **BENEFIT OF ACTION:**

Passage will allow all school-related aspects that require a school name to proceed.

## **PROCEDURAL AND REPORTING IMPLICATIONS:**

The District will provide TEA with the official school names.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT RECEIVED:**

The names for the schools have been approved by the Rayzor family who donated the land.

## **ALTERNATIVES:**

No alternative actions are proposed.

## **OTHER COMMENTS:**

NA

**SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATION:**

The Superintendent recommends that the Board of Trustees in conjunction with the Rayzor Family name Middle School # 6 the Tom Harpool Middle School and name Elementary # 19 the Dr. Annie Webb Blanton Elementary School.

**STAFF PERSONS RESPONSIBLE:**

Rayzor Family  
Board of Trustees  
Superintendent

**ATTACHMENT:**

Supporting documents for Tom Harpool  
Supporting documents for Dr. Annie Webb Blanton

**APPROVAL:**

Signature of Staff Member Proposing Recommendation: \_\_\_\_\_

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Divisional Leader: \_\_\_\_\_

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Superintendent: \_\_\_\_\_

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_